

1/17/07

Hon. Chair Sinrud, Hon. Vice Chair Taylor and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

I would like this letter to be placed in the record in support of HB 189.

I appeal to your Committee to vote in the affirmative on this important bill.

The Flathead Basin Commission has done an incredible amount of research in the area but much more hard scientific data and time is needed to bring this very important cause to the attention of the Canadian government. The proposed mines would have a devastating effect on the environment in Canada but even more so in the USA. They will affect the wilderness, wildlife, and most important WATER. The economic impact on the tourist and sports industries would amount to billions in lost income. Worse yet, even a tiny "mistake" could lead to illness and/or death for the population of Montana immediately on the South side of the border and have effects much further "downstream" than just the Flathead River, it's tributaries, and Flathead Lake. The long term affects, with or without an obvious disaster, will be devastating in the extreme.

For the sake of those of us who live here now, and especially future generations I ask that you please approve HB 189.

Respectfully,



Sharlot B. Battin  
185 Reservoir Rd.  
Whitefish, MT 59937

Pres Fred Hodgeboom  
VP Gary Hall

Sec Carl Anderson  
Treas Roleen Anderson



January 17, 2007

FAX: 406-444-4825

To: House Appropriations Committee, John Sinrud, Chairman; Janna Taylor, V. Chair;  
Eve Franklin, V. Chair.

CC Members: Bill Beck, Tim Callahan, Edith Clark William Glasser, Ray Hawk,  
Cynthia Hiner, Galen Hollenbaugh, Joey Jayne, Dave Kasten, Bill McChesney, Penny  
Morgan, John Musgrove, Rick Ripley, Jon Sesso, Jack Wells, Craig Witte.

RE: Support with amendment HB 189

Montanans for Multiple Use request that the Appropriation Committee amend this Bill to require peer review of the monitoring study plan, and the analysis and interpretation of results funded by this appropriation by scientists outside Montana. This will insure that the data will have maximum value to the State of Montana and that the data and analysis will be accepted and acted on by the Canadian scientists and officials responsible for Canadian Mine Permitting. We support the funding requested in HB 189 with the addition of the suggested peer review amendment that will ensure the data and results will be unimpeachable.

Respectfully,

Fred D. Hodgeboom, President  
Montanans For Multiple Use

Fax to be distributed to House Appropriations Committee

Wed 1/17/2007

406-444-4825

Hon. Chair John Sinrud, Hon. Vice Chair Janna Taylor and ALL Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

I would like this letter to be placed in the record in support of HB 189, since I cannot attend and testify before the House Appropriations Committee meeting on January 18, 2007 when this bill will be heard.

I appeal to your Committee to vote in the affirmative on this important bill. If adopted and signed by the Governor, this bill will provide critical funding for the Flathead Basin Commission's important work in leading the effort to prevent British Columbia mining interests from developing massive open pit mining projects in the headwaters of the Flathead River Basin. I believe the impact of the BC mine (The Cline Mine)(s), if approved, will do irreparable harm to fish, wildlife, water quality and natural resources in the Flathead Basin; will be devastating to the economy of the Basin; and a major blow to the people of, the economy and tourism in the State of Montana.

Under the skilled leadership of Chairman Rich Moy, the Flathead Basin Commission has recently adopted a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan. The transboundary component is a cornerstone of that Plan. Without adequate funding, the Commission cannot fulfill its statutory duties or achieve the worthy goals adopted in its Strategic Plan.

The only effective way to impact a British Columbia decision to permit mining in the Flathead Basin is to demonstrate factually the environmental and economic impacts of such decisions, and mobilize public opinion and local, state and federal political officials against the BC policy that promotes coal mining in the Flathead headwaters. Your Committee can take the first important step in this process by funding the Flathead Basin Commission's work in collecting desperately needed baseline data, allocating travel money to ensure that FBC continues to represent the interests of Flathead Basin residents and the State of Montana generally in MT/BC negotiations, and funding a transboundary specialist to coordinate our efforts on current and potentially forthcoming environmental assessments associated with proposed coal mining operations in the Flathead Basin headwaters.

I respectfully ask that you approve HB 189.

Most Concerned,

Joan Vetter Ehrenberg, 744 Hidden Valley Dr, Whitefish, MT 59937

*Thank you for including my comments. Joan Vetter Ehrenberg*

## **SAMPLE LETTER**

*Date*

Hon. Chair Sinrud, Hon. Vice Chair Taylor and Members of the House  
Appropriations Committee:

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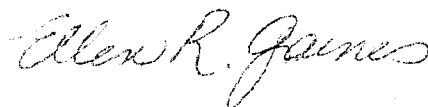
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I respectfully ask that you approve HB 189.

Respectfully,

*Ellen R. Gaines*



*335 Alpine Drive*

*Bigfork, Montana 59911*

January 18, 2007

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I respectfully ask that you approve HB 189.

Respectfully,

Jenn Phalen  
Kalispell, Montana 59901